

To whom it may concern,

A digital broadcast flag or other regulatory regime is not needed. Creating artificial controls which enhance the content providers ability to manipulate what users (the public) choose to view or how they utilize broadcast information provided to them over PUBLIC airwaves is clearly a mistake. There is no reason the government should intervene to restrict the ability of any citizens to receive and record content broadcast to them. Laws exist protecting the rights of copyright owners and if users choose to violate them, there are legal ramifications.

The airwaves belong to the public- the FCC regulates their use to further the best interests of the public. By creating rules that favor businesses over the rights of individual Americans, the FCC would further cripple the use of television as a public service and ensure greater profit margins for broadcasters. It should be up to the broadcasters to determine an economical mode of providing the digital content to the public without limiting users abilities to use it as they wish (in a legal manner). The FCC should specify the required broadcast standard to allow Americans universal access to broadcast media and the broadcasters should implement. Broadcasters are granted a great privileged to use the publics resources (namely the electro-magnetic spectrum), and with that comes their responsibility to provide content to all Americans. A federally mandated regulatory regime allows the content providers to limit access to their broadcast materials to only those individuals will to pay a premium. This violates the entire premise behind granting broadcasters rights to the use of the air waves. There is absolutely no need for a digital broadcast flag or other regulatory regime.